



September 1, 2006

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Honorable Tom Coburn, MD
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Fiscal Management
ATTN: Anna Shopen
United States Senate
439 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Via fax: 202-228-3796

Dear Senator Coburn:

I am responding to your letter of July 27th requesting information about federal funding received by the University of Nebraska and how requests for federal funding are managed by the University of Nebraska. I am president of the University of Nebraska which has four campuses in Lincoln, Omaha, and Kearney.

You have requested a list of all appropriations received from the year 2000 to present, and the amount of assistance received. During this time period, the University of Nebraska received total federal funding of over \$550 million through federal agencies for research, teaching, and outreach. Included in those funds were amounts designated by Congressional intent report language, commonly called an earmark, and we have submitted proposals and statements of work for these funds through the normal federal agency grant process.

We strongly encourage our faculty on all four campuses to pursue funding through the competitive, merit-based, peer-reviewed process. We also evaluate funding requests that are beyond the scope of federal funding opportunities and submit our highest priorities to our Congressional delegation for their consideration. We have used lobbyists to assist us in our efforts.

The University of Nebraska appreciates the work of the Nebraska Congressional delegation to provide opportunities for the university to excel in providing education, research, and outreach for Nebraska and the nation. The amount of funding received through Congressional intent language in any given year is small compared to total federal funding received by our institution. However, when earmarked funds are appropriately leveraged to attract competitively awarded funding, they can provide a significant impact to the university, the state, and the nation. As the only public university in our state, we work hard to make sure that investment of public funds in our university is an investment well spent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. B. Milliken", written over a horizontal line.

James B. Milliken
President

JBM:mch

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